



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax (916) 323-9999
www.rcb.ca.gov



August 14, 2003

Inquiry: I am a nurse analyst with Part B Medicare administration. I am interested in researching any CA state law/regulations regarding the performance of sleep studies, particularly in physicians' offices. I have not been successful in confirming whether there are specific state requirements for the facility/office and for those individuals performing the testing. Any information/citations that you can share will be appreciated.

Response: Your question regarding the qualifications of individuals able to perform sleep studies is excellent. In the past year the Board has held several small group discussions to better understand this new and expanding service and to provide the appropriate guidance and language to the Practice Act to enhance the quality of testing as well as its safety to the patient.

Today, individuals testing patients in physician's offices are essentially working under that supervising physician. In this scenario, the physician is responsible for ensuring the appropriate training and competency of the tester. At present, The Medical Board of California makes no reference to any required training or qualification of these individuals when it comes to sleep testing.

Currently, there are national certifications for both technicians and physicians that address the knowledge one needs to have for performing or interpreting sleep studies. Unfortunately, these are not currently required for reimbursement in California except by Blue Shield.

I can assure you that this dilemma concerns the Respiratory Care Board and we intend on completing our research in the hopes of passing appropriate legislation that will lend itself to consumer safety.

Reference # 2003-C-18